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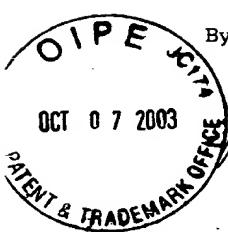
By:

(Attorney Signature and Reg. No.)

J. M. K. - 50,891

Patent

Attorney's Docket No. 10012357-1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Steven W. Trovinger et al.) Confirmation No.: 5347
Application No.: 09/934,725) Group Art Unit: 3651
Filed: August 20, 2001) Examiner: Patrick H. Mackey
For: Binding System With Sheet-Wise)
Formation Of Features)

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S RESPONSE DATED SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In complete response to the Examiner's Response to Amendment dated September 9, 2003, please consider the following remarks:

Applicants appreciate the telephone conference with the Examiner conducted on September 23, 2003. The current status of the application was discussed with the Examiner.

While applicants' Amendment submitted July 17, 2003 was fully responsive to the outstanding rejections, the Examiner's Response to Amendment dated September 9, 2003 effectively requests the applicants to reaffirm the elected species and the claims to be examined. Accordingly, applicants reaffirm election of species A, D, F, H, and M. This

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election is made with traverse. Applicants confirm that original claims 1-3, 6-7, 9, 11-12, 14-15, 19-21, 24-25, and 28-29 read on all the elected species. At least original claims 1-3, 6, 11, 14-15, 19-21, 24-25, and 28-29 are generic. Applicants note that independent claims 1, 19, and 29 are generic and are within the elected claims. Upon allowance of any one of the generic claims, applicants would be entitled to rejoinder of the respective dependent claims.

Further to the above, applicants respectfully request full consideration of applicants' Amendment submitted July 17, 2003, and that the elected claims be examined on the merits. If any further clarification is required by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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